

BA-607

1859

Kemp Hall, St. James College (ruins)  
West of Carroll Road  
Sparks vicinity

Construction began in 1859 for a proposed college to carry on an institution founded in Washington County in 1842 and granted a charter in 1844. Bishop William Rollinson Whittingham laid the cornerstone on October 15, 1859, for a Gothic Revival building to be called Kemp Hall. Dimensions were to be 280 x 80' in the main block, and 55' high. Connecting buildings were to be 50' long and the wings 74'. The architect's drawing (dated 1860) called for gable roofing and buttresses, and a chapel topped by a bell cote; three stories high with a basement. The architect was C.H. Condit of Newark, N.J. The project was never completed. Some of the arches stood until the 1960s. The property owner was listed as Mrs. Eleanor M. Dashiell. (In 1894, the foundation was taken to build the Immaculate Conception Church in Towson.)

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Kemp Hall, St. James College (ruins)  
40 Sparks Farm Road (location of 1992 house)  
Sparks-Glencoe

From Clemens, S. B. and C. E. Clemens (1983) *From Marble Hill to Maryland Line: An Informal History of Northern Baltimore County*. P. 29

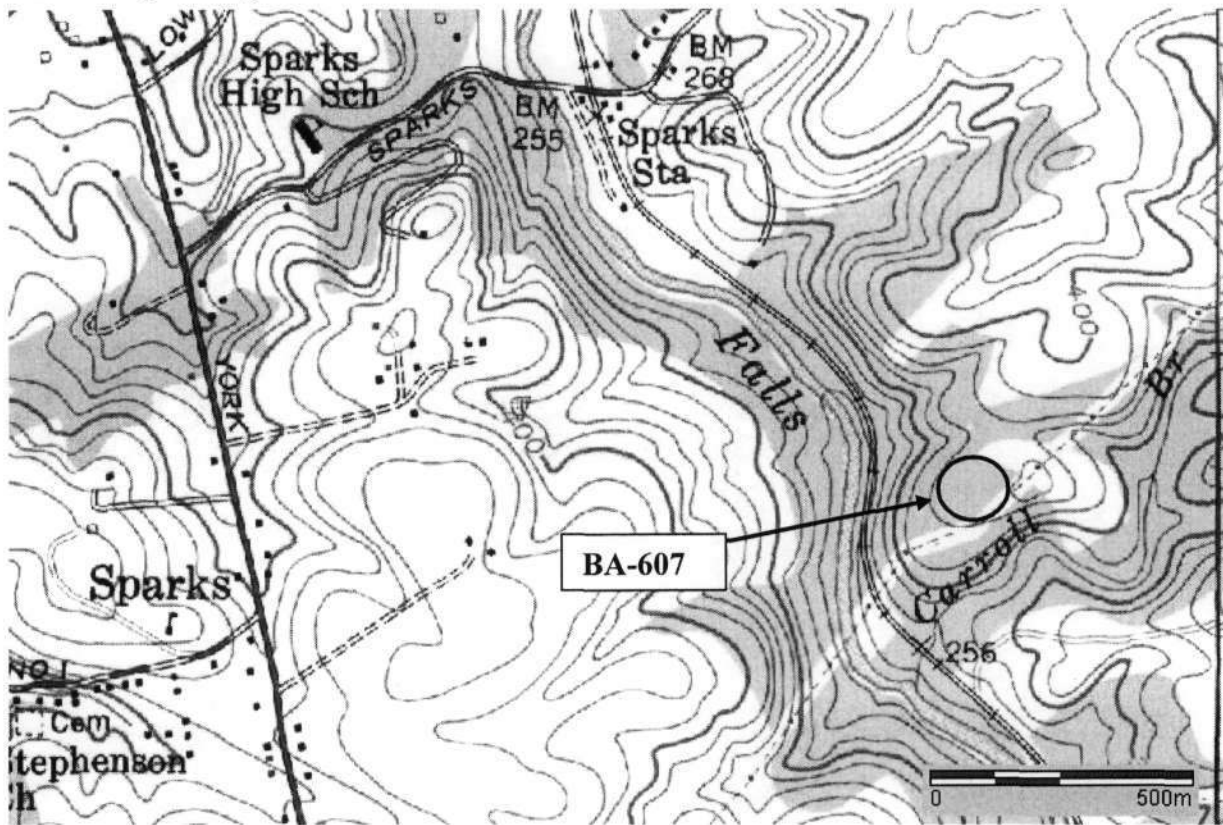
"... [T]he ruins of The Episcopal College of St. James are located only a few miles from The Oread, on the Northern Central Railroad between Sparks and Phoenix. An engraving on display in the Towson Room of the Towson Public Library is of the architect's concept of the completed college building. It gives an idea of the tremendous proportions of the stone structure which was to be the Northern Baltimore County home of the diocesan school of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Maryland, as planned more than a century ago. At that time the college was located in Washington County but planned to move. An active Episcopal College of that name is in Washington County today.

Construction of St. James College (no relationship to the church on My Lady's Manor existed) was begun in 1859 after a sum of money was raised by subscription among the churches in the state. On November 15<sup>th</sup> of that year the cornerstone was laid by the bishop. He and a number of church dignitaries had come to the wooded campus by railroad car. The building was completed up to the top of the arched Gothic windows when the onset of the Civil War called a halt to the construction. It was never resumed, due to a lack of interest and funds. Now the ruined stone walls stretch through the woods to the east of the railroad tracks."

House construction in 1992 likely cleared the site.

JKC 2006

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 Kemp Hall, St. James College (ruins)  
 40 Sparks Farm Road (1992 house)  
 Hereford Quadrangle



1998 Aerial Photo



G.M. Hopkins Atlas, 1877

